

MURRAYFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
held on Tuesday, 14 May 2013 at 8pm
in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Chair: R Smart

Present: R Brown, G Douglas, V Forbes, S Holland, D Huckle, N Macdonald,
G McLeod, E Robertson, R Smart, J Yellowlees,
Ex officio: Cllr Balfour, Cllr Edie, Cllr Ross,
In attendance: 6 members of the public, PC Durant,
Apologies: W Amcotts, W Spence, M Crockart MP, M Biagi MSP.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received as above. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance.

2. Order of Business

This was approved.

3. Community Policing Report

P C Prince Durant reported as follows:-

3.1 In future he will be holding a surgery for local residents immediately before each Murrayfield Community Council ("MCC") meeting at 7pm in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre;

3.2 There had been no further incidents of "Lebanese loops" being fitted to ATMs; details of such devices could be found on the internet;

3.3 The stencilling designed to deter cyclists from using the pavements had been carried out in Roseburn, at Balbirnie Place and Western Corner; the Police propose to stop offenders and endeavour to educate them about the correct cycling behaviour, but if anyone is considered to be cycling in a dangerous manner, the Police will use the power to impose an on-the-spot fine;

3.4 The signs designed to deter cycling on pavements had all been ripped down;

3.5 In the period since 1 April there had been a marked increase in house and vehicle break ins; there had also been thefts from garages; PC Durant urged extra vigilance;

3.6 There had been thefts of lead from the roof of the Bible Society in Hampton Terrace and numerous other churches;

3.7 Murrayfield Church had been broken into twice – on the first occasion money had been stolen from the halls; on the second occasion the metal strips had been removed from the door of the Dove Café, but entry had not actually been effected.

4. Councillors' Report

Cllr Ross reported as follows:-

4.1 No application has yet been lodged by Murrayfield Park Guest House for an HMO (House in Multiple Occupation) licence; the Council has confirmed that the property will not be used as a hostel for the homeless;

4.2 Mark Turley of the Council had assured him that the pavement outside the Murrayfield Bar will be repaired on a date to be confirmed;

4.3 The recent public consultation on the extension of the controlled parking zone had involved the distribution of 2,400 letters to local residents; 350

responses had been received and were being analysed; he had been told by Gavin Brown of the Council that, if the responses indicated sufficient support for the proposals, the necessary statutory process would be begun;

4.4 A further consultation about the existing controlled parking zones would begin soon;

4.5 He was not aware that a planning application had yet been lodged for the vacant site at Kew Terrace; Cllr Edie and others confirmed that it had, in fact, been lodged. Cllr Edie intimated that the decision would be made by a Planning Officer under delegated powers, but he had asked that, if the application were turned down, it be sent to the Planning Committee for decision and for a site visit to be carried out;

4.6 The inclusion of the Donaldson Area within the boundary of MCC had been approved and would be effective after the October Community Council elections;

4.7 There had been some press interest in Millers' proposals for South Beechwood, but as yet no planning application had been lodged. A member of the public, who is a member of South Beechwood Residents Association, informed the meeting that he believed the application will be lodged next week; Cllr Ross undertook that he and his colleagues would keep an eye on it;

4.8 The official opening of the outdoor table tennis and chess facilities in Roseburn Park will take place on Saturday, 18 May at 10.30am.

Cllr Balfour reported as follows:-

4.9 The Tower Nursing Home has closed and been sold and, subject to planning permission being obtained, is to be converted into sheltered accommodation; the existing annexe will remain;

4.10 He had been advised by Traffic Management that the time allowed for pedestrians to cross at the traffic lights at Tesco at Roseburn is the national standard time and they are not minded to change it; if there is significant local concern, a site meeting could be arranged; he had asked Roseburn School to raise this matter with their Parent Council.

A member of the public expressed the view that a response of 350 out of 2,400 to the public consultation on controlled parking was not a bad response. Cllr Edie confirmed that public meetings had shown a majority of residents in favour of controlled parking. Cllr Ross indicated that the results would be analysed on a street by street basis.

In response to a question from G McLeod, Cllr Balfour confirmed that the proposals covered the whole of Murrayfield and Roseburn up to Western Corner and not just the area to the north of Corstorphine Road.

J Yellowlees referred to the conclusion of the consultation on the Council's Vision for the City Centre and asked the way forward. R Smart and S Holland confirmed that they had sent personal responses to the consultation, it having been decided that it was not feasible to send a response on behalf of MCC.

5. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 2 April 2013

These were approved. Prop: G Douglas, Sec: V Forbes.

6. Matters Arising

6.1. *Prego store*

G McLeod reported that the Corstorphine Roofing advertising signs had been removed from the roof of the Prego store at Western Corner, but the supporting woodwork was still in place. The Council had

removed the other signs from the windows and they were now lying in Saughtonhall Avenue. It was agreed that the removal of the latter signs had made the property look rather untidy. Cllr Balfour informed the meeting that the Planning Enforcement team regard the matter as closed and are unlikely to take further action. A member of the public wondered whether the Planning Department could encourage the owners to lodge a planning application for something better and **R Smart agreed to write to the Planning Department to that effect.**

6.2. *Flood Prevention Scheme*

Cllr Ross reported that he and Cllrs Balfour and Edie had been briefed that the Council had overspent on Phase 1 of the Flood Prevention Scheme with the result that there is a shortfall of £9-10m on the funding for Phase 2. The Council are looking at the original scheme with a view to modifying it, the priority being to maximise the protection afforded to residential property. Once they have drawn up their proposals, there will be a public consultation before the procurement process is begun.

Cllr Balfour confirmed that MCC will be consulted at the same time as the general public. In response to a question from D Huckle he expressed the view that the proposals would be ready for presentation at the September MCC meeting at the latest.

Cllr Balfour and Cllr Edie confirmed that the revised scheme should be as effective as the original one, but compromises will be required. Cllr Edie stated that additional phases could be added at a later date.

J Yellowlees recommended a walk down the Water of Leith to view the completed Phase 1 flood defences.

In response to a question from a member of the public Cllr Balfour confirmed that the legal team which was responsible for the contracts for the Tram Project and the Flood Prevention Scheme had been replaced.

6.3. *Roseburn Park (toilet block)*

Cllr Ross confirmed that he and Cllrs Balfour and Edie had received an email from the Council's Head of Estates to the effect that, as the Friends of Roseburn Park ("FoRP") require a 10 year lease in order to secure funding for the refurbishment of the toilet block and he can grant only a 5 year lease under delegated powers, he is applying to the Finance Committee for authority to grant a 10 year lease and expects this to be given.

6.4. *Sunday Market*

No one had any further information on the application for a licence for a Sunday market at Murrayfield Stadium.

6.5. *Referendum Meeting*

N Macdonald reported that she had booked the main hall in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre for the evening of 22 April 2014 to enable the proposed public meeting to discuss the Independence Referendum to be held.

6.6. *Any Other Matters Arising*

J Yellowlees reported that the annual Water of Leith clean up had been well attended, although advertised quite late.

7. Planning and Licensing

7.1 R Smart reported that he had looked at 8 planning applications, none of which gave cause for concern.

7.2 The member of the public, who is a member of South Beechwood Residents Association, reported that the Association had contacted Sarah Boyack, MSP, the three Councillors present, the Evening News and Miller Homes about Millers' proposals to develop the area of land adjoining the South Beechwood development. Millers had produced an Opinion from Professor Paisley of Aberdeen University to the effect that Millers own the land in question and are free to develop it. The Association are meeting Millers next week.

Cllr Ross asked whether the disabled parking spaces at the same location had yet been removed and was told that they had not, but Millers planned to remove them.

7.3 S Holland drew the meeting's attention to the following forthcoming planning events:-

7.3.1 There is to be a special meeting organised in conjunction with Edinburgh Association of Community Councils in the City Chambers on Thursday, 16 May at 5.30pm to discuss the draft Planning Concordat;

7.3.2 The Scottish Government has issued resource packs relating to the National Planning Framework 3 and organised drop-in information sessions across Scotland. Such a session is to be held in the Gyle Shopping Centre on 30 May from 9am to 9pm. He confirmed that the National Planning Framework is available online.

8. Traffic and Transport

J Yellowlees drew the meeting's attention to the recent completion of the Murrayfield tram stop and associated works.

9. Reports

The Chairman reported that W Spence had attended the meeting entitled "Influencing the Council" in the City Chambers on 30 April, but was unable to attend the current meeting and give a report.

10. Correspondence

The Chairman apologised for the absence of a list of correspondence received since the last meeting and explained that the compilation of such lists had been undertaken by the previous Chairman and this task had not yet been re-allocated.

S Holland reported that since the resignation of the previous Chairman he had been receiving all emails addressed to the MCC Chairman and Secretary and these were proving to be numerous. He made specific mention of the current review of the Community Council Scheme and reminded the meeting that responses to the consultation were required by 31 May. He expressed the view that the proposed Scheme did not appear to differ significantly from the present one and the meeting decided to make no formal response to the consultation.

11. Any Other Competent Business

J Yellowlees asked whether there had been any developments re the proposed Romanian Church and was told by Cllr Ross that two further sites had been suggested, but no further action had yet been taken.

12. Questions from the Floor

A member of the public complained that she had been told by the Council that it would take 10 weeks for her damaged green bin to be replaced. Cllr Balfour suggested that she email him or one of the other Councillors about this and an effort would be made to speed up this process.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 25 June 2013 at 8pm in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Subsequent meetings: 30 July, 10 September, 29 October and 3 December 2013.

Minutes approved at meeting of 25 June 2013.

for approval